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Human Rights Commission Minutes 07/16/2003

Arlington Human Rights Commission
Minutes, July 16, 2003

IN ATTENDANCE ABSENT

Christine Deshler Bill Shea Kevin McGann
Sue McHugh Sheri BaronChristine Carney
Jim Webster Cecila AkuffoNick Minton
Marlissa Briggett Nancy Sweeney Nancy Rhoads
Kim Lam

The meeting was called to order by Cecila at 8:15 and was held in the Community Room at Winslow Towers.

Two guests were present from Winslow Towers and Cecila spoke with them after the meeting. They were Michael Nagy and Ninon Marino.

Chief Ryan came to tell us about a recent incident of vandalism that occurred on the night of July 14, at three locations near the bike trail. One vehicle was used by the Animal Control Officer and was inside the fence at the Public Works lot. Another was a private vehicle parked on Brattle Place and the third was near the skating rink. The vehicles were spray painted with hate messages of anti-Semitism, anti-police slurs, numerous swastikas, "Die Pigs", and "Kill Niggers", etc. It was voted to make a statement in support of Chief Ryan and Sheri agreed to write a "Letter to the Editor".

Sheri suggested again that we establish a Rapid Response System.

Sue McHugh reported that the Career Day at the Ottoson was well represented and went well. Sue also reported on and read a letter of a complaint from a woman from Winslow Towers.

Chris Deshler reported that the Warrant Article #81 passed at Town Meeting. It is a Resolution that says that our Civil Liberties are being threatened by the Patriot Act and is being sent to our Representatives in Congress to asking them to monitor the implementation of the Patriot Act.

Marlissa reported on the fund raiser for town day. She has sent a letter to the restaurants in town asking them if they would be willing to give a discount of 10 to 20 % on meals to patrons if the patrons presented a Community Card, like the one WGBH uses. The members of the commission have been asked to approach the restaurants; for follow-up and see if they are willing to participate.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Nancy Sweeney